



ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RECREATIONAL FISHING FUNDING

MINUTES OF APRIL 9, 2019

Location: Senate Hearing Room, 2nd Floor, Legislative Hall, Dover
Div. of Fish & Wildlife: Phone: 302-739-9914, Fax: 302-739-6157



ADVISORY COUNCIL

Bernie Pankowski, Chairman
David Russell, Vice Chair
Eric Burnley, Sr.
Bill Baker, Sr. (*Absent*)
Ronald Horton
Rick Carlisle
Clark Evans
Sen. Gerald W. Hocker
Rep. Ronald E. Gray (*Absent*)

DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE

Jeremey Ashe
John Clark
Bruce Cole
David Saveikis, Director

PUBLIC

4 Attendees

Agenda Item 1. Opening remarks

Chairman Pankowski called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Agenda Item 2. Approval of minutes from November 14, 2018 meeting

A motion was made and the meeting minutes were approved without objection.

Agenda Item 3. Open discussion of Council By-laws – Lydia Massey, Director of Boards and Commissions, recommended revising the Council by-laws to change the terms for the Chairman and Vice Chairman to two years. She suggested that the state code that established the Council should be revised to eliminate the current requirement for Councilors to be balanced in political party affiliation reduce the number of Governor-appointed Councilors to six and, based on input from the Council, require that a representative of the Delaware Mobile Surf Fisherman serve as a member of the Council. Senator Hocker offered to sponsor legislation to revise the code.

Agenda Item 4. Sportfishing Tournament Update – Bruce Cole, Fisheries Scientist, summarized the history of the Delaware Sport Fishing Tournament from the 1930s to the present and described the changes implemented during 2017 and 2018. The tournament now includes 15 freshwater and 30 saltwater eligible species, plus an “Unusual Species” category that includes species not native to Delaware or not currently tournament species. There were 362 tournament entries in 2018 for the live release and weigh-in categories combined. In July 2017, a tournament division for youth anglers age 15 and under was established for both the live release and weigh-in categories. The citation lengths and weights for the youth division are 25% less than those for the adult division. Mr. Cole presented examples of the newly designed Big Fish plaque, Elite Angler Award, newly enhanced paper citations and 2018, 2019 and 2020 citation pins.

Agenda Item 5. Update on current and future project funds – John Clark, Fisheries Administrator, updated the Council on the funds the Division of Fish & Wildlife

(F&W) receives from the General Fishing License and from the Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration Program. F&W will receive approximately a combined \$5.1M in 2019 from the two funds, which is a 1% increase from 2018.

Agenda Item 6. Update on current, approved and potential construction projects – Jeremey Ashe, Fisheries Construction Manager, briefed the Council on major projects, including the new Little Creek boat ramp and fishing pier, completed in April 2019; expansion of the Philips Landing boat ramp, completed April 2019; reconstruction of the Millsboro Pond boat ramp, which will begin in July 2019; and the recently completed Woodland Wharf project on the Nanticoke River, which involved bulkhead replacement and addition of a floating dock with an attached kayak launch. Upcoming projects discussed included bulkhead repairs to Massey’s Landing, boat ramp replacements at Garrisons Lake and Wagamons Pond and ramp repairs and replacement of docks at the Port Mahon boat ramp. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the City of Wilmington for F&W to reconstruct and reopen the 7th Street boat ramp is under review by the Secretary’s Office.

Agenda Item 7. Follow up from previous meeting:

- a. **Recreational Fishing License Plate – Chairman Pankowski** updated the Council on the progress of the recreational fishing license plate. The freshwater plate will feature a largemouth bass and the saltwater plate will feature a striped bass. Chairman Pankowski and Director Saveikis have been working with the Division of Motor Vehicles on the design and production of the plates. The tentative production date is late May to early June 2019, but the first prototypes need further revision.
- b. **Dobbinsville Fishing Pier – David Saveikis, Fish & Wildlife Division Director**, stated that F&W is ready to proceed with the design and engineering of the Dobbinsville fishing pier. The design phase will take approximately 6 months to complete and the cost for design and construction of the pier is estimated to be approximately \$1.5M. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the City

of New Castle will need to be completed before design and engineering begins.

Agenda Item 8. Public comments

No public comments.

Agenda Item 9. Ending remarks and adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca Hoover
Recording Secretary